**Mayor’s Disability Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**St. James Building / 117 West Duval Street**

**Mayor’s Conference Room / 4th Floor**

*Mission: “The Jacksonville Mayor’s Disability Council raises awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities by assisting in the formulation of Solutions to meet those needs by providing a public forum”*

**MINUTES**

* **Board Members Present In Person:** Dan O’Connor, Denise Torres, Jose Morales, Anida Pollo, Ray Pringle, Natalie Alden, and Walter Johnson
* **Board Members Absent:** Amy Nelson, Ron McCauley, Barbara Brown, and Beth Putnam
* **Disabled Services Staff Present:** Kara Tucker, Lois Smokes, and Matthew Jackson
* **In-Person Attendees:** Chris Macklin (JTA), Alice Krauss (Brooks Rehab), Gonza Gonzague (VR),
* **Welcome and Introduction** – Chair Jose Morales
* **Public Comment** – All Attendees
  + Dr. Ahmed spoke about his role with the city of Jacksonville and how he is looking forward to working with the MDC.

He is also a member of the mayor’s transition team.

Dr Ahmed will meet with Kara and Jose to discuss the Mayor’s goals

* **Approval of Minutes from 06/2023 and 07/2023** – Chair Jose Morales
  + No minutes to approve.
* **Presentation / Announcements**
  + Katie from Visit Jax asked for assistance in finding out what people with disabilities may need to visit our city and what events are accessible.
* **Disabled Services** – Chief Kara Tucker
  + Division Updates
  + Division is in process of hiring a new Executive Assistant.
  + Board members will have to reapply to board.
* **Old Business** – Chair Jose Morales and Co-Chair Natalie Alden
* **New Business** – Chair Jose Morales – Jose suggested making a public campaign for mental health awareness.
* **Subcommittee Reports (5 minutes)**
  + **LEAPSC Subcommittee** – 2 applicants were determined as eligible for a scholarship; suggestion was given to open Jim Brady scholarships to students already in college. The suggestion was given that outside companies be given the opportunity to sponsor future events. August 23 meeting will be held to prepare for the 2024 Disability Expo. Sports Ability Alliance may return to Jacksonville in the future.
  + **Adaptive Recreation Subcommittee** – Members need to put together questions for Director Joseph about what will and will not be approved at Sunny Acres, Board members need to create a packet (proforma) of what is needed to make the Regency Mall project to happen and hopefully invite Paralympics, Brooks will have a water ski event held on August 12th at the Camp Blanding Training Center.
  + **Employment Subcommittee** –– Mentoring day was canceled and moved to October 2024, Bitty & Beaus Coffee to be recognized in October.
* **Ad Hoc Reports**
  + ESE – Amy Valentine / Rebecca Scissors: (NONE)
  + JSO – (varies): Pedestrian fatalities 14 as of this year, Restructuring has been put in place making zones and subsections smaller. A suggestion was given that JSO holds a white cane safety walk. JSO is short of 216 officers.
  + Library/Talking Books – (NONE)
  + Transportation – JTA/MV: July ridership was 2026; 91% on-time performance; 6% late trips; Sensitivity training to be moved to the main hub.
  + VR – Gonza Gonzague: 2,495 transition individuals, 733 students, 26 placed
  + Brooks Rehabilitation – Alice Krauss: attendance of the Brooks Surf Event. 56 surfers 226 volunteers
  + CIL – (None)
* **Public Comment** – All Attendees
* **Adjourn Meeting** – Chair Jose Morales
  + Meeting adjourned by chair at 4:49 pm

Chair: Jose Morales

Co-Chair: Natalie Alden

**Disabled Services Division**

(904) 255-5466